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October 4, 2005

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Ex Parte Presentation
EB Docket No. 04-296**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On Monday, October 3, 2005, Scott B. Tollefsen, General Counsel of USA Mobility, Inc., and the undersigned met with the following representatives of the Chairman's and Commissioners' offices regarding the development of a new emergency alert system: Heather Dixon, Attorney-Advisor, Media Bureau (representing Chairman Martin's Office); Lauren Belvin, Acting Legal Adviser to Commissioner Abernathy; Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps; and Barry Ohlson and Rudy Brioché, Senior Legal Advisor and Legal Advisor, respectively, to Commissioner Adelstein. Pursuant to Section 1.1206 of the Commission's rules, a copy of this letter, along with all of the materials distributed at the meetings, are being filed via ECFS with your office.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide information on USA Mobility's vital role in facilitating emergency communications and to underscore the distinctive attributes of paging services in connection with the development of a redundant, multi-platform alert system.

We informed the staff present at the meetings that, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, one-way paging and two-way text messaging offered by USA Mobility were among the most reliable methods of electronic communication available. Although Hurricane Katrina interrupted operations at 291 of the company's tower locations along the Gulf Coast, USA Mobility was able to restore ground-level service throughout most of the areas hardest hit by the storm within 48 hours. This rapid restoration of service enabled police, firefighters, hospital personnel, and other key officials to communicate when other wireline and wireless networks were not functioning.

The availability of USA Mobility's network resulted from the company's contingency planning before the hurricane struck, coupled with the impact of several distinctive elements of the system's design. First, USA Mobility's narrowband PCS network simulcasts messages from multiple towers, making a service interruption at one location less problematic. Second, the one-way paging network relies on satellite communications to backhaul traffic to each tower, and the two-way paging network relies on satellite communications to backhaul traffic both to and from

each tower, making paging services far less dependent on wireline infrastructure than most cellular services. Third, paging antennas are located much higher on towers than cellular antennas, contributing to transmission of paging signals over greater distances. Fourth, the paging network operates at higher power (up to 3500 watts effective radiating power) than cellular networks (100 watts ERP), thereby enabling broader coverage from each tower and the penetration of paging transmissions deeper inside buildings than most cellular signals. These and other benefits distinguish narrowband PCS services from those of other wireless providers. They have enabled USA Mobility to remain a leading provider of essential communications services to health care professionals, emergency responders, and a wide variety of government agencies and corporate enterprises, notwithstanding the general decline in the paging industry's mass market penetration in recent years.

As the Commission is preparing a Further NPRM in this docket regarding the development of a more robust, multi-modal alert system, we urged the legal advisors to consider that paging networks offer distinct features which lead to broad geographic coverage, high reliability, and low cost. The comparatively low prices of one-way and two-way paging devices and monthly service plans enable federal, state, and local government agencies facing budget pressures to equip emergency officials with reliable communications tools. The long backup battery power associated with paging devices also makes them an important and reliable tool for first responders. In addition to the fact that mobile paging devices can help inform the public in the event of a crisis, the paging network also could be used to transmit simple messages to fixed receivers mounted inside of homes, thus serving as an important complement to messages carried by broadcasters and other network owners.

We encouraged the Commissioners' legal advisers to recognize the many benefits offered by paging services today in the text of the Further NPRM under consideration, and also to develop the record more fully regarding the potentially critical role of paging services in the development of a new emergency alert system.

Please contact the undersigned if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matthew A. Brill

Matthew A. Brill
Counsel for USA Mobility, Inc.

Attachment

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| cc: | Heather Dixon | Barry Ohlson |
| | Catherine Bohigian | Rudy Brioché |
| | Lauren Belvin | Gregory Cooke |
| | Jordan Goldstein | |